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February 14, 1979

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Mr. Larry J. Wilson, Supervisor
Southeastern Region
Division of Wildlife Resources
455 West Railroad Ave.
Price, Utah 84501

Re: Uranium Mines - numbered
ACT/037/043
ACT/037/027
ACT/037/025
ACT/037/026

Dear Larry,

This letter is in reply to your concern for uranium activities that occur on lands ranked as crucial-critical or high-priority to wildlife. I would like to assure you that this division's personnel are currently making use of the wildlife map overlay system, supplied by your regional office, and are passing on applicable information to mineral developers.

Since you are familiar with the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act, I would like to refer you to Rule M-10, the Reclamation Standards. The objectives of this rule are to return the land to a stable ecological condition, to minimize or prevent environmental degradation, and to minimize or prevent hazards to public safety. Under this rule, the Division requires reclamation of all disturbed areas of a mining operation, and surety is estimated on the amount of this disturbance. It is, therefore, in the operators' best interests to disturb as little area as possible.

In answer to your specific concerns for the above-numbered mining operations, I would like to point out several things. Operations ACT/037/027, ACT/037/025 and ACT/037/026 are all pre-existing mines. That is, they were in existence prior to passage of the Utah Act in 1975. It is just now that the Division is approving their plans and is, by this very same approval process, receiving a commitment and a bond for reclamation from the operators. So, without this approval process, the Division cannot ensure protection of the environment.

ROUTE
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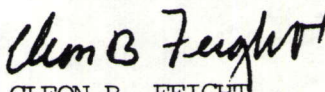
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The surface facilities of the fourth mine, ACT/037/043, which is new, are located adjacent to Utah Highway 46, next to a cafe, in an existing gravel pit. Also, all of the surface facilities for the existing mine, ACT/037/026, which holds sections in critical deer winter habitat, lie close to Highway 46, county-maintained and Forest Service-maintained roads. So, although a section lease is held by an operator, it is not implicit that disturbance occurs throughout it.

If you feel it necessary, Mike Thompson, our Engineering Geologist, who has inspected these sites, and Mary Ann Wright, our Reclamation Biologist, would be glad to accompany your Resource Analyst, Larry Dalton, on a trip to these mine sites to observe the operations first hand. An on-site inspection could be most instructive.

Again, we appreciate your concerns and cooperation.

Sincerely,


CLEON B. FEIGHT
DIRECTOR

CBF/sp

cc: Darrel Nish
Division of Wildlife Resources